

Mega Ecuador

Birding / Photography Tour **Nov-December 2018**



Hola !

Bienvenido a Ecuador

Amazing Birds...Beautiful landscapes...Easy birding !!

Ecuador offers highly productive and enjoyable birding in whole of South America. Our carefully crafted itinerary will take you to endemic rich Northern and Northwest Ecuador

Ecuador is one of the most bio-diverse regions in the World with over 70 endemics Bird species. This tour covers the whole range of altitudes from the cool temperate forests of Yanacocha to the humid lowlands of silanche, targeting as many of these specialties as possible. With luck, this tour will feature such thrilling specialties such as Toucan Barbet, Plate-billed Mountain-Toucan, Rose-faced Parrot, Blue-tailed (Chocó) Trogon, Orange-breasted Fruit-eater, Moss-backed, Glistening-green and Scarlet-and-white Tanagers, and beautiful Violet-tailed Sylph, Empress Brilliant, and Velvet-purple Coronet etc.

6 Participants | 14 days
November 30 - December 13 ,
2018



Day 1 (November 30). Upon arrival in Quito, the capital city of Ecuador, you will be received by our agent and drive you to the hotel for check in and dinner.

Day 2. Yanacocha (December 1)

The city of Quito is located about 2850 meters above the sea level. Today after our delicious breakfast we will set off to Yanacocha, which is located at 3400 meters elevation and rich in Avian life.



We will explore nature reserves in Yanacocha and try to locate species such as Hooded and Black-chested Mountain-Tanagers, Blue-backed Conebill, and Superciliaried Hemispingus, Spectacled Redstart, White-throated and White-banded Tyrannulets, Rufous Wren, Barred Fruit-eater and Bar-bellied Woodpecker , Rudous Antpitta, Scarlet-bellied Mountain Tanager, Black Flower-piercer etc .

This reserve is known for its rich Humming bird population which includes Sword-billed Hummingbird, Great Sapphirewing, Buff-winged Starfrontler, Golden-breasted Puffleg, Sapphire-vented Puffleg, Tyrain Metal-tail etc

After lunch we will continue bringing and head towards for Mindo for night stay.

Over night in Mindo.

Day 3 (December 2) . Mindo

Mindo is a small town in the Andean foothills of Ecuador. Set in beautiful cloud-forest, it attracts birdwatchers first and foremost, but also has attractions for other tourists.

In Mindo we go to Paz De Las Aves, a small and private reserve where its possible to see a good collection of Antpittas including Chestnut-crowned, Moustached, Ochre-breasted, and yellow breasted . This reserve is also an excellent place for highly sought after species such as Andean Cock-of-the Rock, Golden-headed Quetzal, and Crimson-rumped Toucanet etc.



We will also try to cover the Upper Tandayapa Valley which is known for Jays Tanager, Finch Toucan-Barbet, and Plate-billed Mountain-toucan etc.

Over night in Mindo.

Day 4 (December 3) . Bellavista AND Old road to Mindo

On day four we will do an excursion to Bellavista cloud forest where it is possible to locate Blue-winged Mountain-Tanagers, Green-and-black Fruit-eater, Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, White-tailed Tyrannulet, Flavescent Flycatcher, Sierran Elaenia, Montane Wood-creeper, Streaked Tufted-cheek, and Pearled Tree-runner etc

Over night Mindo

Day 5 (December 4). Mashpi Road And Chontal.

We will start early today to reach Chocó area by Sunrise to search for many endemic birds species such as Indigo Flower-piercer, Orange-breasted Fruit-eater, and Moss-backed and Glistening-green Tanagers etc. This location is considered to be a good place to find Pacific (Buffy) Tufted-cheek, Uniform Tree-hunter, Esmeraldas Antbird, and Black Solitaire. Mashpi is home for very rare Chocó Vireo, although sighting has become very difficult in recent years, we will put in our best efforts to locate this highly sought after bird. We will scan the forest for Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant, Toucan Barbet, Emerald Tanager, Flame-faced Tanager, Pale-eyed Thrush, White-throated Spade-bill, and Ochre-breasted Tanager and many more. Strangely looking oil bird is another target bird at Chontal.

Overnight Mindo

Day 6 (December 5). Rio Silanche.

Today we will go for a day trip to MCF Reserve. We'll spend a full day in the reserve looking for



Orange-fronted Barbet, Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, Scarlet-breasted Tanager, the very rare Blue-whiskered Tanager, beautiful Gray-and-gold Tanager, Guayaquil and Cinnamon Woodpeckers, Barred Puffbird, Dusky Pigeon etc .

Over night Mindo



Day 7 (December 6) : Milpe Area - Choco Endemic Area

We are now getting ready for the two important birding days in this trip. We will be birding in famous Veintitres de Julio Reserve and Milpe area for many highly sought after species. Milpe Bird Sanctuary is one of the most important remnant forests in the Choco endemic area of Ecuador. The reserve is a mixture of primary forest, regenerating forest and pasture. Since the reserve is about 500 meters lower in elevation than the Mindo, you are likely to see many endemics not normally found in Mindo Valley. We will start our birding early in the morning at the small private reserve of Veintitres de Julio where we are expected to see and photograph Long-wattled Umbrellabird. We will also search the Milpe cloud forest for Chocó endemics such as Blue-tailed (Chocó) Trogon, Rufous-throated and Ochre-breasted Tanagers, and Chocó Toucan. 4 species of Toucans are also found here.

Over Night Mindo

Day 8 .(December 7) Milpe and Mindo General Area.

Our second day in the Milpe area is dedicated to hunting down another highly sought after species - The Sun bittern. We will also try and locate any species that might have missed on our previous day of birding.

Over night in Mindo

Day 9. (December 8) Back to Quito

We will windup our Mindo birding today and travel back to Quito . We will stop at Antisana reserve and Antisana area to search for Andean condor giant

hummingbird ,Curve billed Tinamo, Paramo Pipit and Andean Cock-of-the-Rock etc . We will reach Quito by evening.

Overnight Quito

We will spend next 4 days in Amazonian Ecuador where bird life is different and diversified.

Day 10. (December 9) Papallacta, Guango

After an early breakfast , we will drive out of Quito before dawn to Guango . We will start our birding near the Papallacta Pass. We will be searching for Rufous-bellied Seed-snipe , Sword-billed Humming Birds, White-chinned Thistle-tail etc over here. . As we further drive down the hill we will focus on other local favourites such as Giant Conebill and Black-backed Bush-Tanager etc. We will also stop for searching Torrent Ducks on our way to San Isidro.

Over Night San Isidro

DAY11-12. (December 10-11) San Isidro



We will spend next two days birding in the subtropical forest of San Isidro. Large mixed species flocks birds such as Saffron-crowned Tanager, Black-eared Hemispingus, and Rufous-breasted Flycatcher, Cute Rufous-crowned Tody-Flycatchers, and Long-tailed Antbirds etc are normally seen around this area. We will also do bit of owling in the evening for the “mystery” owl that lives near the cabins; There is no consensus yet on the identity of the owl.

Days13-14 (December 12,13) . Wildsumaco Bird Sanctuary

Our last two days of birding will be at Wildsumaco Bird Sanctuary and in and around the lodge area . The forests near the lodge are loaded with east slope specialties; with a combination of road and trail birding we are sure to see plenty of

exciting birds over here. Coppery-chested Jacamar, Ecuadorian Piedtail, Napo Sabrewing, Gray-tailed Piha, Chestnut-crowned Gnateater, Blue-rumped Manakin, and Rufous-naped Greenlet are just a sample of some of the birds we are likely to see over here. Rarities such as Yellow-throated Spade-bill and Crimson-bellied Woodpecker are also possible near the lodge area. At night, we can look for some hard-to-find nightbirds like Band-bellied Owl and Foothill Screech-owl in the lodge vicinity.

On day 13 , after lunch we will slowly drive back to the Quito International Airport. We will reach the airport by 7 PM.

End of Tour

Key Target

Andean Cock-Of-the-Rock | Sword-billed Hummingbird | Giant Conebill | Grass-Green Tanager | Amazonian Umbrella Bird | Toucan Barbet | Golden-headed Quetzal | Scarlet-green Tanager | Oilbird etc | Sun Bittern | Ecuadorian Trogon

Tour Highlights

Tour Starting Date	: 30 November 2018
Tour Ending Date	: 13 December 2018
Group Size	: 6 Participants
Accommodation	: Very good to excellent
Species expected	: 300+
Photography	: Excellent Opportunities
Difficulty level	: Easy to Medium

Tour Cost :
Single room Supplement

Inclusions :

All ground transportation , all meals , All entry passes for National parks , private reserves , feeders , hides etc , Taxes

Exclusions :

Airfare , additional menu , personal expenses , laundry , insurance , Tips etc

Tour Alterations : While every effort is made to make the tour descriptions as accurate as possible, participants should be aware that, factors beyond our control may result in changes to the itinerary. Should a major change of itinerary be forced upon us while the tour is in progress as, like an airline strike, weather delay or political crisis, the additional costs, if any, are the responsibility of the tour participant.

Disclaimer

We recommend travel insurance. While we always exercise all reasonable precautions, we are not responsible for any injury, damage and additional charges or other irregularities either intentionally or by negligence by firms providing our tours transport, accommodations and other services. Participants hold harmless our organization, as well as employees of the organizations from any and all liability for any injuries, loss or damage of any kind arising from or in connection with this tour.